

PROBUS NEWSLETTER

Information in this newsletter is for Probus members only

DIARY

Tuesday 6th April

General Meeting

Gladesville Sporties Club
9:30 - 181A Ryde Rd, Gladesville

Guest Speaker

Johnny Pace

“Putting Humour to Work”

Each Thursday

Coffee Morning - The Sunroom

10:00 am

Thursday 1st April

Exotic Lunch - Noon

Essence of North India

124 Wicks Rd, North Ryde

Dean: 9816 5357

Monday 5th and 19th April

Golf - Call Jim 0412 090 400

Tuesday 13th April

Technical Activity

See Page 7

David Lorsch

Wednesday 14th April

Scenic Dining

Carmen's on the Park

551 Lyons Rd W, Five Dock

Dean Letcher - 9816 5357

Tuesday 15th April

Scenic Roaming

See Page 5

Rick Collins 0411 023 473

Friday 16th April

Book Club

Hunters Hill Museum 14:00

“The Light Between the Oceans”

by M L Stedman

Afternoon Tea at the Sunroom

Monday 19th April

Harrington Waters

Friday 23rd April

Art Group

See next column

Margaret Timbs - 9816 2374

Art Gallery Visit

On Friday morning, 26th February, at 10 am, 11 of our Club's members met at the front gate of the home of our fellow member, Ross McBride.



We, and especially I, had great expectations as this was the very first endeavour of the Art Gallery Group. These expectations were exceeded as Ross and Josephine showed us through to the outdoor area where we were seated and waited expectantly for Ross to commence his very informative talk about how he came to be a potter. He shared how he, over time, expanded and built upon his knowledge and expertise with his craft. We could sense this love of his craft through his words, followed by moving into his pottery workshop, and watching, literally, his hands-on working with clay.

Ross started his pottery wheel (electric) and proceeded to throw 3 different sized pots. It was fascinating to watch the process, with Ross fielding questions as they arose. He talked about kilns for firing his works and the use of different glazes to attain different styles of pottery. The revelation I most remember is that all potters when throwing a pot on the wheel have their hands in the position of twenty past four (4.20) if you can imagine the face of a clock. There were some works of pottery on display and for sale at a VERY reasonable price.



This was then followed by a beautiful morning tea produced by our wonderful hostess, Josephine. Our thanks to you both.

The next Art Gallery Group will meet at 10 am on Friday 23rd April 2021 at the Hunters Hill Museum. We shall view, inside, about 30 paintings by local artists George Collingridge, William Piguneit, Nora Heysen and Hal Missingham and others. We shall commence promptly at 10 am so that hopefully there will be time for coffee.

This viewing will be enhanced by a brief talk given by a fellow Probus member Tony Saunders.

At 11 am we will cross the road and visit the studio of Ian Hansen, well known marine artist, who will guide and expand our appreciation of his works.

If time permits, those who wish can cross the road again and have a coffee etc at the Sunroom.

Margaret Timbs.

FOR YOUR DIARY

General Meeting
 Tuesday 4th May
 Gladesville Sporties Club
 181a Ryde Rd, Gladesville
 9:30
Guest Speaker
 Tom Ware
 "Acclaimed Storyteller"

Thursdays
 Coffee Morning - The Sunroom
 10:00 am

Friday 14th May
 Exotic Dining
 Bamiyan Afghani
 147 Great North Rd, Five Dock
 Noon
 Dean Letcher 9816 5357

Monday 5th and 19th April
 Golf
 Call Jim 0412 090 400

Tuesday 13th April
 Technical Activity -TBA
 David Lorsch

Wednesday 19th May
 Scenic Dining
 Drummoyn Sailing Club
 Dean Letcher

Friday 21st May
 Book Club
 Hunters Hill Museum 14:00
 Book TBA
 Afternoon Tea at the Sunroom

Tuesday 25th May
 Nepean Belle / Lindt Factory
 \$93 Barbara Banner
 0405 427259

Tuesday 25th May
 Scenic Roaming
 TBA
 Rick Collins 0411 023 473

Friday 28th May
 Art Group
 TBA
 Margaret Timbs

Friday 4th - 11th June
 Cook Islands
 8 day OnCourse Tour
 \$3,950 pp
 Barbara Banner
 Dates may be changing

Book Club



"Boy Swallows Universe"
 By Trent Dalton

Almost unanimity with the occasional dichotomy. Dean considered it fraudulent, Joan thought the ending trumped up, Deidre had trouble getting into it as did Margaret, but the language didn't worry her.

And yet so sad, a confession of sorts leads to a (expletive deleted) good yarn to paraphrase the vernacular so freely coined in this enthralling and gripping novel. In some ways surreal and in others pure fantasy.

It is a reflection (moon pool) of our societies' ills, that so much harm comes from illicit drugs: Eli, our hero, has his feet in the gutter but is looking up at the stars, the universe of his narrative and the belief that in everything evil there is a little bit of good.

Thus we enter into this dysfunctional family, collectively drug dealers users, junkies, incarcerated escape artists (into and out of gaol). Our hero, the clever one, hoards stolen heroin for capital gain and sells it back to the kingpin for \$50,000 and after spending \$500, his brother Gus, the mute of convenience, gives it to charity. Gus who is speechless most of the time, writes his thoughts in invisible ink in the sky or perhaps by thought transference or a red telephone.

The plot thickens as various ethnic thugs stand over the family, eliminating some and souveniring Eli's lucky index finger with the freckle.

There is some rapprochement and reunification of the family diaspora and Gus, Eli and his love Caitlin (the crime journalist) explore the really baddies' mansion and find plasticised body parts including Eli's finger and family!

This macabre story comes to a gory and gothic end at the medal presentation for charity donors. The prose is at times gross and at other times erudite and there are many clever one liners e.g. The whole point of life is doing what's right not what's easy.

Whilst sad, in a way, it is uplifting and happy and we part sharing optimism.

Richard Jones

Scenic Lunching

There may be a Chinese blockade on Australian seafood but on Friday 12 March 18 happy Probians did their best to support the industry. Large amounts of lobster, prawns, scallops and fish complemented the great harbor view from Sydney Rowing Club.



Next Scenic Lunch venue is Wednesday 14 April at 'Carmen's in the Park' on the shores of Hen & Chicken Bay with a good view of the yachts. Desserts are notorious here but the menu is varied and the views are even better. Note change of day from Thursday to every 3rd Wednesday of every month

Dean Letcher

President's Report to the 45th Annual General Meeting

What a year 2020 has been. A year that almost everybody says is like no other..... certainly like no other in our lifetimes. It was a year that I am sure most of us will never forget, a year that changed the way we normally live our lives. It was a year that we lost some of our members namely Gary Trail, John Watt, Daniel O'Sullivan, David Bowman and only recently Patricia Sanson.

We will miss them and wish their families well.

This time last year I was installed as President of Hunters Hill Probus. At that time, I was a member for about 10 months and had been on the Committee member in October 2020.

Very soon after the 4 March, we all know what happened. This thing called COVID-19 hit Australia and became a world pandemic. The pandemic greatly affected the operation of our club as we could not hold face to face meetings. Fortunately, our state Government managed to get control and from about September restrictions began to be relaxed.

We held our first face to face meeting in October, away from our normal meeting venue, the Hunters Hill Club, a place where we had held our meeting for the past 20 years. We held our first reconvened meeting here at Gladesville Sporties, a venue that we are finding an excellent place to hold our meetings going forward. To see the delight and happiness on our members faces when they caught up with their friends was such a good feeling, such a delight. For that meeting 72 members attended, certainly the highest number in my time and most probably for a long time.

During the 6 or 7 months of having no meetings however, the Committee continued to meet, firstly by having Zoom meetings and then as restrictions allowed, we commenced meeting face to face. Our main concern and focus was the wellbeing of our members and the effect this pandemic was having on them through isolation, resulting in loneliness. As a committee, we spent some time addressing this concern and one of the things we decided to introduce was the coffee mornings which were very well attended each week. We normally had about 14 members attending at the Henley Cove café.

We also introduced the "Stay in Contact" program where each committee member was allocated about 10 members each and those members would receive a call each month checking on their wellbeing. This was reported back and if any action was required we would take it. It was surprising and pleasing to hear how well our members were coping. Another action that the committee decided to take was to publish the Newsletter on a bi-monthly basis where numerous members enriched the contents of this publication by submitting interesting articles, such as their lives, careers, trips, recipes and other various topics. This proved to be very popular and we received fantastic feedback from a number of you. So thank you to all the contributors and, of course, the editor of the Newsletter, Mike Allum, for all his hard work getting this put together and out.

Although the year 2020 was a big challenge with the pandemic, I would like to say a huge thank you to you, the members, for sticking with the Club and to our wonderful Committee members, who have risen to the occasion and steered us through this period so successfully.

One major impact to the club, was the lack of activities that took place between February and October 2020. When the restrictions were relaxed, we didn't waste time in recommencing with putting on activities. You may recall we had a very successful trip to Mudjee and HARS Aviation Museum at Albion Park in October and then we held a wonderful Christmas Lunch in December. We had many others planned to take place during the year but restrictions would not allow us to hold them. Let me assure you, however, that the 2021 Calendar will be different and is being populated with more activities and trips to be added as well as several interest groups such as golf, exotic and scenic international lunches, technical outings, art galleries and many others.

When I became President of this wonderful club, I set myself and the management committee 3 objectives to be achieved during 2020. These objectives were :

- Ensure the Club is and remains in a sound financial position.
- Get the administrative systems updated to allow us to go forward as a club.
- Increase the involvement of members in the management of the club.

In respect of the Financial position of the club, as you saw and heard from Josephine, we are in a very good position. Regarding the Club's administrative systems we did a lot in this area. The club's bookkeeping was transferred from a manual handwritten system which unfortunately resulted in some inaccuracies of reporting to one that is now computerised. We now have systems and processes that accurately record activities and the proper recording of the club's funds. A Recruitment policy of members was developed as well as a new Membership application form that gives a little more information about prospective members.

We applied and received a Government grant of \$3000 which went towards:

- Development of a new Website to replace the old one that did not reflect what this club is about to the outside world and prospective new members
- The replacement of a very old club computer with a new one.

In regard to the third objective we have not done very much here. We, as a club, have a weakness that we need to address if the future of this club is to continue to be as successful as it has been in the past. To run a club such as this, a lot of work goes into it by a number of volunteers helping out on a member meeting day, manning the doors, selling raffle tickets, welcoming guests, receiving money, assisting at morning tea. The issue here is, it is the same volunteers each month.

Regarding the current committee members, 5 have been in place for a number of years now. The 2020 committee agreed to "roll

President's Report to the 45th Annual General Meeting (Cont)

over” for the new year and you as members have approved the motion, however I am not sure how many of us will remain to serve in 2022.

In the past 5 years we have inducted 32 new members to the club. Of these, 7 are serving currently on the committee. We need some of the other 25 members to put their hand up going forward.

Two clubs I have a relationship with, namely Gladesville and Sydney, are in the fortunate position that they have assistants to most positions on the committee. The advantage of this is obvious. I encourage the 25 members that have joined the club in the past 5 years or before to put their hands up and show an interest in joining the committee. Be part of the future of running this amazing club.

Speaking about future, this is not dependent on funding or management systems, it is club member involvement. Please consider this seriously.

In closing, I would like to again thank all of the Management Committee of the club for the hard work they have put in during such a difficult year to keep the wheels of the club going and thank them for their support and assistance. Without them I don't think we would have a club going today.

I would also like to thank all the members for making it easier for a rookie President like me, to find his feet in a new role, especially Mike and Ashlyn Allum, Garth Juster, Mike and Jill Regnis and Greg Griffiths for opening my eyes to what was needed to run a club such as this, always having the time to talk and advise me on anything I wanted to know.

Thank you all once again and I look forward to 2021. I know it will be great year for our Club

Jim

MINUTES OF THE 45th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

PROBUS CLUB OF HUNTERS HILL AND DISTRICT INC.

SPORTIES CLUB, GLADESVILLE

TUESDAY, MARCH 2nd 2021

Meeting opened at 10.45 am.

President Jim Likidis opened the 45th Annual General Meeting of the Hunters Hill & District Probus Club Inc. at the Sporties Club, Gladesville. Apologies for non-attendance to be taken from today's attendance record.

1. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF 2020 AGM

Proposed: Sandy Mower **Seconded:** Pat Cox

2. MATTERS ARISING

3. AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Auditor's Report has been tabled with no issues. The Treasurer Josephine McBride was commended for her fine performance during this difficult year.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Josephine McBride gave a very detailed account of the 12 months to December 30 2020.

A summary of the results for YE 2020 are as follows:

Total Revenue	\$61,501
Total Expenditure	\$56,776
Cash Surplus	\$ 4,726
Bank Balance as at 31-12-20	\$10,656
Net Surplus After Depreciation and 50 th	\$1,402
Birthday Reserve	
Net Assets as at 31-12-20	\$7,296

Proposed; Barbara Banner **Seconded;** Mike Regnis

Mike Regnis then spoke regarding how well the report was received, and commended the PMC on a great job for 2020 under difficult circumstances. Garth Juster then also thanked the Management Committee for their work throughout the year.

The meeting was advised that the club's auditor, Anthony Alexandrou, has accepted this position for 2021 and was re-appointed.

Proposed: Ashlyn Allum **Seconded:** Carol Pelham

Trent Zimmerman's Speech to Parliament

Local Federal Member, Trent Zimmerman made a speech to Federal Parliament on Wednesday March 17th and his office sent Jim a transcript reproduced below.

"Across Australia and New Zealand, Probus clubs provide fun, friendship and fellowship to over 125,000 retirees who look to progress healthy minds and healthy bodies through social interaction activities with other retirees.

In my time as member for North Sydney, I have seen the important role Probus clubs play. To see so many of our community's retirees come together, make new friends, listen to wonderful guest speakers and stay active is just so encouraging.

Late last year, it was a Lane Cove Probus Club picnic that became one of the first community events I was able to attend after all those months of COVID restrictions.

But many wouldn't be aware that the very first Probus club in Australia can be found in my own electorate in Hunters Hill.

Celebrating its 45th anniversary this year, the Hunters Hill Probus club initially started off with an annual membership fee of just \$1 and has prospered ever since. Meeting monthly, the Hunters Hill Probus club has speakers from all walks of life and regularly holds events such as barbecues and lunches; visits to galleries, museums and theatres; and travels across Australia to explore this great country. I understand they've been as far as Turkey. It has a very active community led by club president Jim Likidis and I know they are all dedicated to the club's success.

Probus is a great organisation. I encourage retirees living in my area to think about joining. I'm sure you won't regret it. I want to wish the Hunters Hill Probus club a very happy 45th birthday and many more years of success ahead."

Trent Zimmerman MP for North Sydney

Barbara's Thought for the Month

Fear less; hope more;
Eat less; chew more;
Whine less; breathe more;
Talk less; say more;
Hate less; love more;

And all good things will be yours

A Swedish Proverb

Editor's Musings

If a cat always lands on its feet, and buttered bread always lands butter side down, what would happen if you tied buttered bread on top of a cat?

Why is a professional who invests your money called a "broker"?

How can you tell when you run out of invisible ink?

If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it?

If a word is misspelled in the dictionary, how would we ever know?

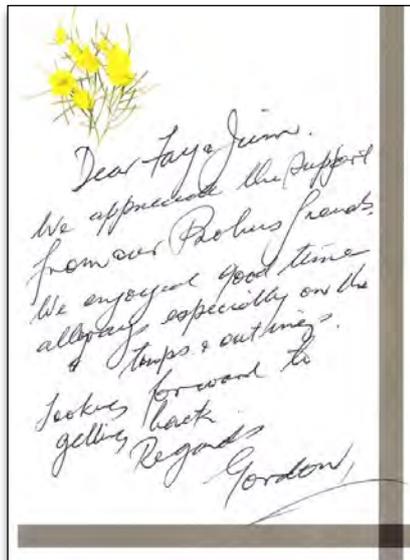
Why is the alphabet in that order?

From Gordon Sanson



*We are thankful for friends
like you at this time
and we appreciate your
support and prayers*

From all the Sanson Family



**PROBUS CLUB OF HUNTERS HILL
AND DISTRICT
PO BOX 1041 HUNTERS HILL 2110**

President	-	Jim Likidis	0412 090 400
Vice President	-	Dean Letcher	9816 5357
Immediate Past President	-	Mike Allum	0417 596 300
Secretary	-	Carolyn Jolly	9437 6229
Treasurer	-	Josephine McBride	9817 5632
Activities Convenor	-	Barbara Banner	0405 427259
Speakers	-	Carol Pelham	9808 5020
Welfare Officer	-	Ashlyn Allum	0414 964 773
Membership Officer	-	Kevin Manie	0412 349 270
Committee	-	David Lorschy	0428 247 708
Book Club Convenor	-	Margaret Timbs	9816 2374
Newsletter Editor	-	Mike Allum	0417 596 300
(email: mike.allum@bigpond.com)			
Honorary Auditor	-	Anthony Alexandrou	

**Probus Club of
Hunters Hill**

PO BOX 1041
HUNTERS HILL NSW 2110



April Birthdays

Neville Davey	6
Rod Stewart	7
Dellane Stewart	12
Nan Barbour	13
Les Osborne (102)	16
Beverly Grace	19
Anne Juster	25
Sandy Mower	27
Fran Williams	28

STOP PRESS

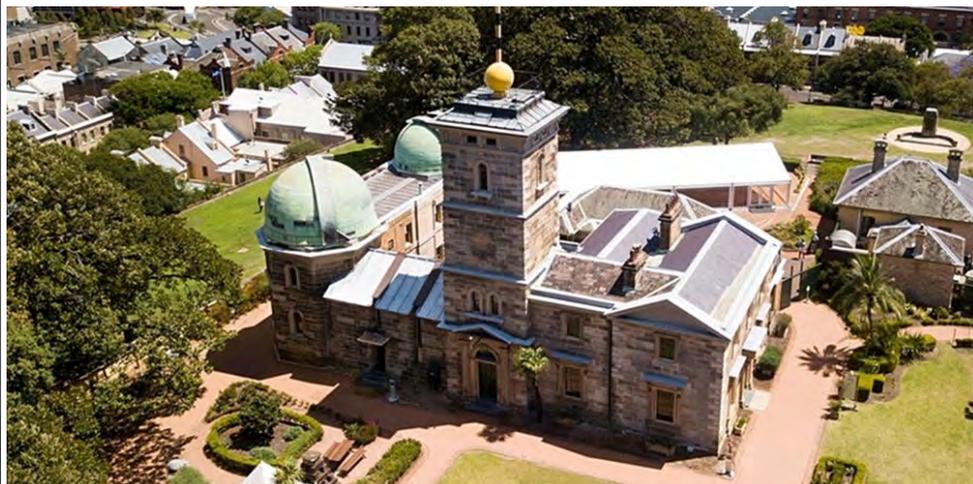
Good Old Days Concert
Sydney Town Hall
Monday 21st June

and

Gladesville Probus have a 6 day tour
to Barrington Tops and surrounding
areas 15th - 20th September.

Contact Barbara if you are interested
in either or both
0405 427 259

Technical Outing - 13th April, 2021



SYDNEY OBSERVATORY

Sydney Observatory houses a collection of historic astronomical and meteorological instruments and remains the site where Sydney's official weather observations are made and recorded. The historic buildings are very attractive and the grounds allow impressive views over parts of Sydney Harbour and nearby historic buildings.

Access to Observatory buildings is limited to 25 people at a time as a COVID-19 precaution, but Jim Likidis and I obtained tickets for 5 people to accompany each of us from 10 am on Tuesday 13th April. Service NSW QR code registration is required at entry and wearing face masks is required inside the buildings.

Travel to the Observatory is proposed by bus route 506, departing Hunters Hill Hotel at 9:23 am, changing to bus route 311 in Park Street, Sydney and arriving in Argyle Place, Millers Point, a short walk to the Observatory, about 10 am.

Following inspection of the Observatory exhibits and grounds, it is proposed to lunch in a suitable venue in the nearby Rocks area before returning home by reverse of the bus routes or going to other independent activities. Nearby attractions for those inclined include the S H Irvine Art Gallery and the numerous historic buildings in The Rocks.

The first 10 people to register their interest, with me, in participating in this outing are assured of entry to the Observatory.

Subsequent nominations will be wait-listed.

David Lorsch, Leader, Technical Outings.

Ph. 0428 247 708 or email: lorschyd@bigpond.net.au .